

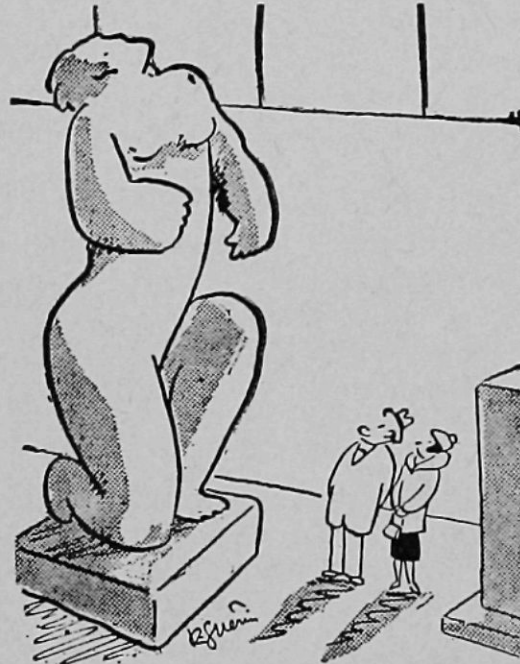
• Abroad •

X - - - - At last month's secret interview, Jacques Soustelle was asked, "Hasn't General de Gaulle taken a very firm position against the Soviet Berlin operations?" Soustelle replied: "Certainly. That follows from his conception—in my opinion chimerical—of a French hegemony in Europe based on the alliance with West Germany. But what does the defense of Berlin mean if we let the Soviets get control, through intermediaries, of Algiers and Oran, from where they will threaten France, Italy and Spain? In 1953 we were told that we had to give up Indochina in order to defend Africa; now, that we must give up Africa to defend Berlin. When will it be the moment to give up Berlin to defend Strasbourg, and then Strasbourg to defend the suburbs of Paris, or Perpignan? The obvious truth is that western Europe, deprived of its African glacis, is not defensible in our epoch. . . . The Kremlin knows that by getting control of Africa it would neutralize Europe. It is the fate of the Free World that is at stake in Algeria. If the Free World doesn't understand this—as in 1938 it failed to understand that by handing Czechoslovakia to Hitler through the Munich agreement it was opening the gates of war—then it will suddenly find itself thrown on a precarious, even desperate, defensive, because western Europe will be completely encircled from the Baltic to the Straits of Gibraltar."

Copenhagen. Two subjects were paramount at the closed and unpublicized sessions of Interpol (the international police organization). The first was the massive threat of counterfeit currency as a result of remarkable new technical methods that baffle the routine of detection. No one knows how much counterfeit money—some of it a Communist product—is now afloat. The police experts want all major nations to shift suddenly to special new kinds of bills. The second crucial subject is the police problem posed by the increased speed of international transport. A criminal, jewel, negotiable security, or painting can be half way around the world before a crime is even known about.

Tokyo. Salt deserts have a very hard surface, on which motor vehicles are driven without difficulty. (Indeed, the Bonneville, Utah, salt flats are used for world's record automobile speed runs.) This well-known fact suggested to some Japanese engineers that a road could be built merely by treating a strip of land with a salt solution. This turns out to be the case. Roads so built can easily handle light traffic (up to about 400 vehicles daily), do not disintegrate even in heavy rain, are free from grass and weeds, and can be maintained by further salt treatments a couple of times a year. This exceedingly simple method of construction is much cheaper than any other, and seems well adapted to the road network expansion that is so critical for the growth of the underdeveloped nations.

São Paulo. From a student at the University: ". . . The political situation is settling down to a slow boil. If the southern provinces can cool off, things will get a semblance of stability for a while. But only for a while—i.e., two or three months. The beautifully typical Portuguese-Brazilian compromise—changing the form of government—is out of date. We are no longer living in an age of compromises, and the Goulart-leftist power bloc vs. the Lacerda-rightist bloc cannot live in peace for too long. There are too many important issues to fight about. Our basic inconveniences here were the inability to draw cash out of the bank and the suspension of classes. The municipal authorities shut us up as a preventive measure the first Friday and Saturday, and the rest of the time 'we' have been on strike, protesting the unconstitutional treatment accorded to Jango [Goulart]. Actually, there is more ideology than personality involved, because most of the students are not too sure about Jango, and distrust him. The cops are really quite rough on people. They threw the whole University student organization in jail for a while and whenever a labor leader talks too much he gets similar treatment. The entire organization 'representing' all the secondary school students was likewise given the heave-ho into the jug. And you ought to have seen what they did to some of the Rio papers. One came out with a front page completely blank except for three small, innocuous, lonesome articles."



Peiping. Field Marshal Lord Montgomery has been visiting Communist China, for the second time. A few nights ago, he dined with Marshal Chen Yi, now Peiping's foreign minister. The two comradely old soldiers—Mao's right-hand man and General Eisenhower's former deputy commander—joined in underwriting three principles to resolve world tensions: 1) there should be just one China, recognized by everyone; 2) there should be two Germanys, recognized by everyone; 3) all armed forces everywhere should withdraw to their own national territories.

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